



**Lees Brook
Academy**

Wednesday 22nd November 2023

Dear parents & carers,

RE: Year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award

I am delighted to offer your child the opportunity to complete the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award this year.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is the world's leading youth achievement award. It allows young people to challenge themselves, have fun and develop team working, confidence and problem-solving skills that will help them grow as individuals and stand out in their education and future career.

On completion, students are presented with the prestigious Bronze D of E Award, that is highly valued by colleges, apprenticeship providers, universities, and many employers.

Lees Brook is one of the largest providers of the Award in Derbyshire, with over half of our students leaving school having achieved a D of E Award.

Students who successfully complete their Bronze Award in Year 9 will have the opportunity to progress on to complete the Silver Award in Year 10.

What does the award consist of?

There are three sections students are expected to complete themselves over a 3 & 6 month period. These are:

Skill: Students learn a new, or develop an existing skill; for example, home cooking or playing a musical instrument, etc.

Volunteering: Examples include helping with extra-curricular clubs or activities in school, volunteering in the community / helping elderly relatives, supporting a younger football / sports team. We also have a challenge-based Lees Brook Volunteering programme students can complete from home.

Physical: Students learn a new, or develop an existing physical activity; examples include joining the school badminton club, football training, online yoga or going to the gym, etc.

There are hundreds of activities students can choose from, in school, at home and in the wider community – many students will already be doing activities which can be used. There is something for everyone and we will help students to find activities they will enjoy.

Students choose which section to complete for 6 months. The remaining two sections are completed over a 3-month period. We expect students to complete the 3-month sections by W/C 25th March 2024 and the 6-month section by W/C 24th June 2024. Students must be up to date with their sections to be allowed on expeditions.

Peak District Expeditions

The final section of the award is the expedition; this is a great experience that our young people look forward to, gaining skills, experiences and memories that will stay with them all their life.

Students complete a two day walk, stopping off halfway at a campsite overnight. Students walk in small groups and are 'remotely supervised' by Lees Brook staff, who meet up with groups at check points along the way. To prepare students for their assessed expedition, which will take place in the summer term, students undertake a two-day training expedition in the Peak District during the spring term. There will be a letter given out nearer the time with more information.

To make the award more affordable, we loan students much of the equipment needed for the expedition. This includes tents, stoves and rucksacks, etc.

After School Training Sessions

To ensure students are on track with their skill, volunteering, and physical sections and to prepare for expeditions, there will be monthly after school training sessions from 3:00 - 4:10pm. Attendance is compulsory – failure to attend, without a valid reason, may result in your child being removed from the programme.

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Meeting Dates	
Tuesday 12 th December 2023	Tuesday 26 th March 2024
Tuesday 19 th December 2023	Tuesday 30 th April 2024
Tuesday 23 rd January 2024	Tuesday 7 th May 2024
Tuesday 6 th February 2024	Tuesday 11 th June 2024

Expedition Training Day – Monday 5th February 2024

To equip students with the required skills for the expedition section, students will be taken off timetable for the day to take part in our expedition training programme. Students are required to stay in school until approximately 4:00pm. Break and lunch will be at normal times and students should wear normal school uniform. Please ensure your child has a waterproof coat with them on the day.

Parent information evening – Monday 27th November 2023 - 6:00pm – 7:00pm

We will be holding a parent information evening on the above date to explain the award in detail and answer any questions that you may have. To support your child through the Award, it is important that you understand what is required of them. We hope that you can attend.

Due to seating capacity, we ask that a maximum of maximum two adults attend per family. Students are not required to attend.

Cost of Bronze Award

The full cost of the award is £95. This can be **paid in full** or in **4 monthly instalments**, using Weduc.

Instalment 1: **04th December** £25

Instalment 2: **31st January** £25

Instalment 3: **29th February** £25

Instalment 4: **31st March** £20

Should you have any difficulties with payments, please contact us as financial support is available. We would not wish for any student to miss out because of financial difficulties. Please be assured that such information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Twitter feed

We have a Lees Brook D of E Twitter Feed where we showcase some of the fantastic achievements made by students, as well as posting live updates throughout expeditions. Please feel free to check out and follow our Twitter Feed:

@dofeleesbrook1

Please be assured that your child will not be included on the Twitter feed if they do not have school photo consent.

Behaviour Expectations

Please be aware that the highest standards of behaviour are expected whilst participating in the Award. If your child's behaviour is a cause for concern at any time, the decision may be taken to remove them from the programme. Please be assured that this decision would not be taken lightly and would follow consultation with yourself and their Head of Year. Should your child be removed from the programme due to poor behaviour, no refund will be issued.

Online Reply Form

Deadline: Monday 4th December 2023

Please complete the online reply form on Weduc by the above date, giving your consent for your child to take part in the Bronze Award.

Payment Deadline

Due by Monday 4th December 2023

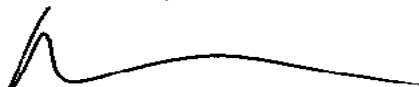
You can either pay in full (by paying all installments in one go) or monthly.

Instalment 1 (£25) is due by the above date. Should you have any difficulties with payments, please contact school.

We hope this will be an exciting, fun and engaging experience for your child. It will be a great achievement and will provide your child with something positive to work towards during Year 9.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Mr A. Waterhouse
School D of E Manager